

Privatization of Health in the Philippines: A Fatal Prescription



COUNCIL FOR HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT
PHILIPPINES

What is privatization?

- ▶ Privatization is the abandonment of the state's responsibility to ensure people's health and the operation of public health services and institutions into profit-oriented enterprises.
- ▶ Public health services are run like business to generate own income for operations
- ▶ Privatization is not simply a response to fiscal difficulties and not only to sell off state-owned enterprises. The challenge is to “redefine the role of the government”
- ▶ The role of the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) – the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the privatization process in the Third World countries clearly show how it undermines the sovereignty of these countries.



Privatization transforms state-provided health services into business, thus:

- Health becomes an expensive commodity, it ceases to be a right
- Enjoyed only by the rich who can afford and inaccessible for the poor – intensifying their deprivation and marginalization
- Patients handled as “clients”
- Run with cheap labor resulting to underpaid, overworked health workers, contractualization, outsourcing, agency-hired, job orders

PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL, MANILA (May 2021)

Permanent	2,916
Contractual	80
Job Orders	238
Temporary	993
Total	4,227



Modernization of Philippine Orthopedic Center



Public-Private-Partnership

Conversion into corporation and investor-driven conversion



Outright sale (NCMH)



Privatization of operations

DUTERTE ADMINISTRATION'S 2022 BUDGET PRIORITIES

Infrastructure, military and police, and debt over health and other social services, agriculture and industry



PERCENT SHARE IN BUDGET



DPWH: 13.7%
Php686.1 billion

DOTr: 3.0%
Php151.3 billion



Debt Service-Interest: 10.2%
Php512.6 billion



DND: 4.4%
Php222.0 billion

DILG-PNP: 3.8%
Php190.7 billion

Others: Php1.9 trillion



DepEd: 12.6%
Php630.8 billion

SUCs: 1.5%
Php75.4 billion

CHED: 1.0%
Php52.6 billion

DTI-TESDA: 0.3%
Php14.7 billion



DSWD: 3.8%
Php191.4 billion

DHSUD: 0.02%
Php899.0 million



DOH: 3.2%
Php162.0 billion

PhilHealth: 1.6%
Php80.0 billion



DA: 1.4%
Php72.0 billion

DAR: 0.3%
Php12.8 billion



DOLE: 0.9%
Php44.9 billion

DTI: 0.2%
Php8.2 billion

Budget cuts

Among the public hospitals:

- ▶ P303,000.00 cut in personnel services (PS) – Fabella Memorial Hospital (Manila)
- ▶ P10.475 Million cut in maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) - Batanes General Hospital
- ▶ P67.3 Million cut in MOOE - Region II Trauma and Medical Center
- ▶ P90 Million cut in MOOE – Bicol Region General Hospital
- ▶ P28.2 Million cut in MOOE – Mindanao Central Sanitarium at Zamboanga Peninsula





Effects of privatization on the **people**

- Health becomes a commodity only the rich can buy
 - Inequitable access to health facilities, goods and services
 - Increasing out-of-pocket share of patients reaching as much as 47.9% of the current health expenditures (2019)
 - Prevalence of user fees/fees for service in public hospitals to make up for budget cuts in government subsidy
 - 4 out of 10 deaths are not medically attended (2019)
- “Privatization policies have led to the closure or dissolution of government units and hospitals”



Inadequate Public Health Budget



**P162 B for 110 M population is
P1,473/Filipino/year (€24,55) or
P4/Filipino/day (€0,07)**



42,046 Villages or Barangays

ONLY 23,144 Barangay Health Stations

Effects of privatization on **health workers**

- Privatization will mean re-organizing health human resources
- Loss of health workers' right to security of tenure, retrenchment
- Massive contractualization which will exploit further the rank and file employees

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- Curtailment of democratic rights
- Understaffing
- Threats to hard-won economic and democratic rights under RA 7305 (Magna Carta of Health Workers).



Our urgent tasks

- Forge stronger unity among health workers, organizations within public and private hospitals
- Unite and mobilize the broadest and biggest number of people, health sector, community and church people and other service oriented groups, organizations and individuals to fight the privatization of public hospitals
- Continue protest actions amidst deceptive and divisive tactics of the authorities
- Coordination with other health workers and sectors for common sectoral and national concerns like privatization, health budget
- Get popular support from the legislators, mass media, broad public and international community
- Launch and participate in campaigns on different issues of people's right to health

Those who seek a brighter future must take action

AROUSE – ORGANIZE - MOBILIZE



AROUSE



ORGANIZE



The collage consists of three photographs. The top photograph shows a group of about ten young people, mostly students, standing outdoors in front of a building with various signs like 'Service Center', 'GLASS PLANT ALUMINUM DEPOT', and 'TEMPERED GLASS SPECIALIST'. They are holding a large green and white banner. The banner has the text 'ESTUDYANTENG PAGKALUSUGAN! TUMUNGO SA KANAYUNAN! MAGLINGKOD SA SAMBAYANAN!' in bold black letters. Below this, in smaller text, it says 'Coalition for People's Right to Health'. There is also a logo for the 'Philippine Medical Students' Association' (PMSA). The bottom-left photograph shows a group of people, some wearing face masks, holding signs. One sign clearly reads 'Not Budget of at least 10% of the GOP (P2.044T) to strengthen public health service and COVID-19 response!'. The bottom-right photograph shows a person holding a sign that says 'BUWAGIN' in large, bold letters.



AOM can reap results



TULOY PA RIN ANG LABAN!

Barikadang Bayan sa Fabella

Ika-30 ng Setyembre, 2016 | 11:00AM | Sta. Cruz, Manila

#SaveFabellaHospital



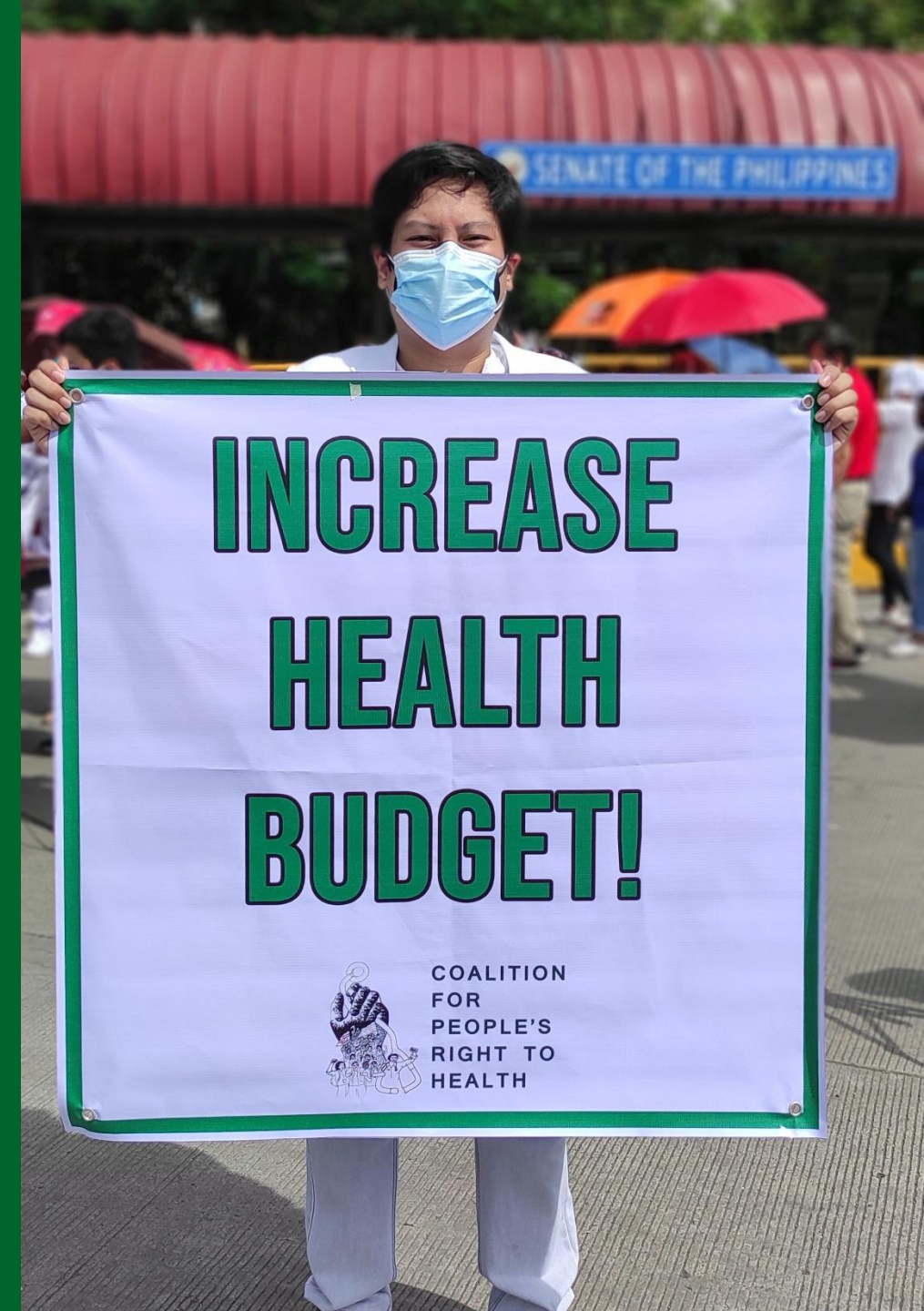
Campaigns:

FREE NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

Council for Health and Development and
Coalition for People's Right to Health



Is a broad formation of service oriented groups, non-government organizations, academic institutions, religious groups, and individuals in campaigning for genuine access of health for the people



Campaigns:

Ending Privatization of Public Hospitals

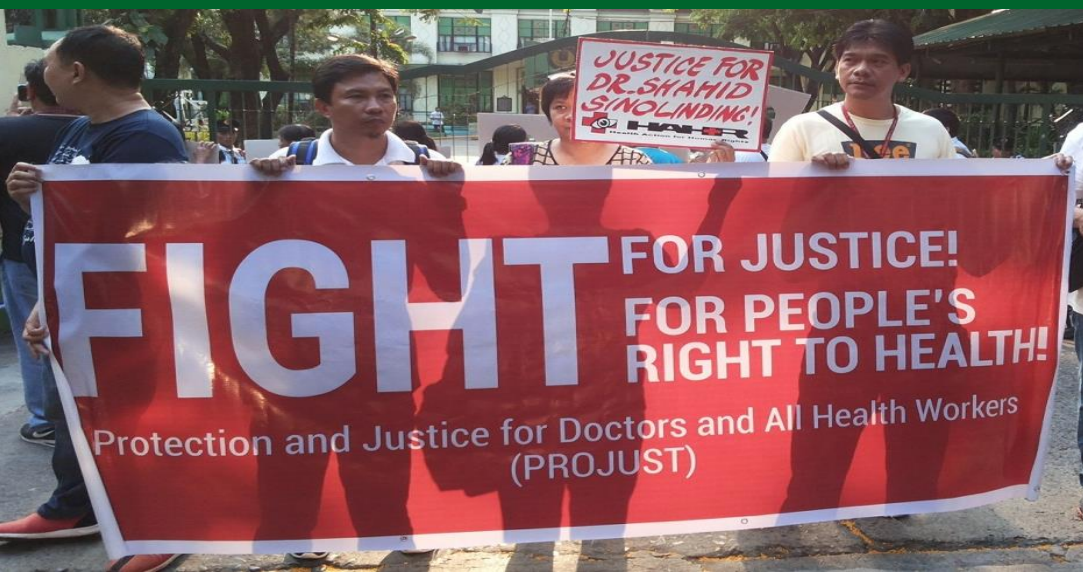


Bayan Muna Partylist
@BayanMuna

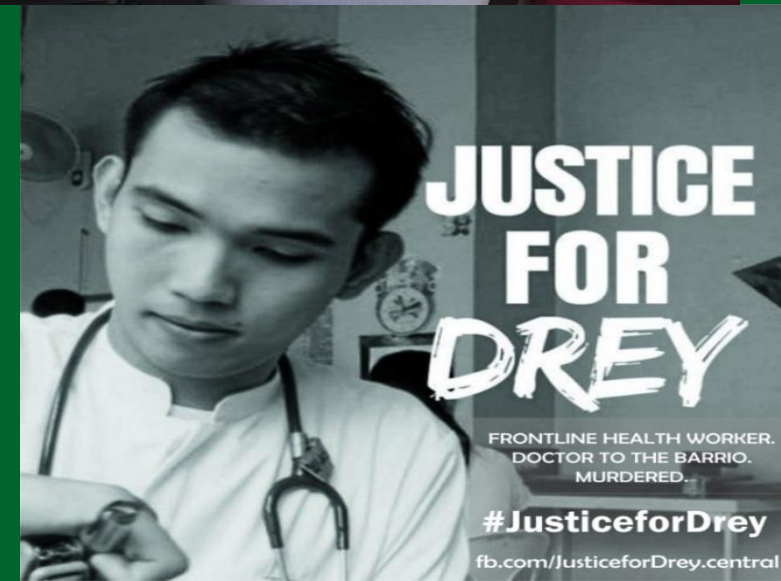
GOOD NEWS Bayan Muna's House Bill 2475 Prohibiting the Privatization of Hospitals hurdles the Committee on Health!

Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Quezon City SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS First Regular Session HOUSE BILL No. <u>2475</u>	HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RECEIVED DATE: <u>03 AUG 2016</u> TIME: <u>5:00 PM</u> BY: <u>[Signature]</u> REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE
Introduced by Reps. CARLOS ISAGANI T. ZARATE, ANTONIO L. TINIO, EMMI A. DE JESUS, FRANCE L. CASTRO, ARLENE D. BROSAS, ARIEL B. CASILAO, and SARAH JANE I. ELAGO	
AN ACT PROHIBITING THE PRIVATIZATION AND CORPORATIZATION OF PUBLIC HOSPITALS, PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES AND PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES	

Campaigns: Health Workers Underfire



JUSTICE
for the **43**
HEALTH WORKERS
Justice for All Victims of
Human Rights Violations!



Campaign for vaccine equity

#TRIPSWaiverNow



A group of people are protesting against the abolition of Fabella Hospital. In the foreground, a woman with short brown hair, wearing a light green short-sleeved button-down shirt with green floral embroidery, is shouting and holding a white sign with red and black text that reads "SAVE FABELLA HOSPITAL! No to Abolition!". The sign also features a small circular logo and the text "SAVE FABELLA HOSPITAL MOVEMENT" and "ALLIANCE OF HEALTH WORKERS". Behind her, a man with glasses and a white t-shirt is also shouting and holding a sign that partially reads "ec. Garin, atalsikin". His t-shirt has the text "Fight for National Minimum wage! P16,000 monthly!" printed on it. To the right, another man is holding a sign that says "Pre ipatigil aglusav sa Fab hospital!". The protesters are standing in front of a building with visible pipes and wires. The scene is outdoors during the day.



...DARE TO WIN!



MARAMING SALAMAT!

(THANK YOU!)



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